effect that President Saddam Hussein had indicated to the Japanese Leader of Opposition, Ms. Takako Doia, that he might consider a compromise in the Gulf if an international conference on a comprehensive peace plan in the area was convened;

(b) whether the UN Secretary-General also reported a similar response of the Iraqi President to the UN Security Council after his talks with President Saddam Hussein; and

(c) what steps, if any, were taken by India as a member of the Security Council in the light thereof to avert the war or later to bring the parties to the negotiating table?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In his report the Secretary-General said that President Saddam Hussein told him under certain conditions and as part of a package deal. He would facilitate the Secretary-General's search for a solution if others permitted him to play a role.

(c) India persisted in its efforts especially at the Security Council to find a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis before the 17th of January, 1991, and thereafter to bring about an end to hostilities and even proposed a pause in hostilities in response to Iraq's offer to withdraw from Kuwait.

'Intelsat' Geo-stationary satellite

@872. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Link through the 'Intelsat' Geo-stationary satellite over the Indian ocean has been cut off;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its effect on various spheres of India's communications link with the outside world apart from some of the domestic telecommunication and transmission problems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Plantation projects in the State of Himachal

873. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government have launched a new plantation project in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any central aid has been asked and given to the State Government by Central Government and if so, quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) to (c) Presumably the reference is to the 'Van Lagao-Rozi Kamao' scheme announced by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

All the State Governments had been advised to involve village communities in regeneration of degraded forest land on usufruct sharing basis, in accordance with the guidelines issued on June 1, 1990.

Government of Himachal Pradesh had also been advised that the "Van Lagao-Rozi Kamao" scheme should aim at securing involvement of village communities in regeneration of degraded forest lands in accordance with the stipulated guidelines. Details of the scheme finalised by the Government of Himachal Pradesh have not, however, been received by the Central Government. The State Government has also not asked for any Central aid for the scheme.

@Previously Unstarred Question 303, transferred from 26 February, 1991.